MATERNAL ANCESTRY
OF
EZEKIEL GILBERT GEAR, D. D.

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EZEKIEL GILBERT OBAR, D. D.

EZEKIEL GILBERT GEAR, D. D.

To
JESSE GILBERT STUBBS
Grandson of Ezekiel Gilbert Gear
this Book is Affectionately Inscribed
G. I. G. S.

PREFACE

IN this little work I shall give a brief sketch of the families from which the late Ezekiel Gilbert Gear, D. D., was descended, through his mother, Sarah Gilbert; showing the patriotic services of certain members of these families to the Commonwealth in which their descendants may take a pardonable pride. It has been to me a work of great pleasure; not only because I am interested in my father's ancestry, but because the research has led me to many pleasant fields of Colonial History. I hope that this little book will be of value to the Grandchildren and the Great-grandchildren of Ezekiel Gilbert Gear.

Gertrude Irene Gear Stubbs.

December, 1914. 108 So. 25th Ave., Omaha, Neb.

Note—It must be borne in mind that prior to 1752 the year ended Mar. 25, Lady Day. This accounts for months of Jan., Feb., and Mar. being written with two year dates; the first being Old Style and the second according to the present calendar.

ANCESTRY OF EZEKIEL G. GEAR, D. D.

THE JOHNSON FAMILY

John Johnson, Roxbury, Mass., came in the fleet with Winthrop, bringing wife Margaret and five children, the following three being the only ones of which we have information:

Isaac, b. 1615, m. Elizabeth Porter. (See Porter Family).
Humphrey, d. July 24, 1693, m. Mar. 20, 1643, Ellen or Eleanor Cheney.
Elizabeth, m. Robert Pepper.

Margaret, wife of John Johnson, d. April 9, 1655. He m. 2nd, Grace, widow of Barnabas Tawer. Capt. John Johnson of Roxbury, Mass., requested to be admitted freeman Oct. 19, 1630. He was Deputy to the Mass. General Court 1634-38, 1641, 1653, 1656-59; a Deputy when the Charter was granted. He was Captain of the Roxbury Artillery, and, later, "Gen. John Johnson, a charter member and First Clerk of the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Co. 1638. Surveyor-General of 'Al Ye Armyes' 1644." A member of the embryo Parliament in 1632, for every town chose two men to be at the next Court to advise with the Governor and assistants about the raising of a public stock, so that they should all be bound by the same agreement, and John Johnson was one of those chosen from Roxbury. He was the person designated by Court as "Goodman" Johnson, to whom the Roxbury men disarmed in Mrs. Hutchinson's case were to deliver their arms. In 1645 his house burnt down, and "seventeen barrells of the country's powder, and a great number of arms, in all to the value of £400 or £500," were destroyed in the conflagration. Johnson had been chosen Constable of Roxbury as early as Sept. 19, 1630, at a time when only the very best men were approved for the office. He died Sept. 29, 1659. His will is dated the 30th of the 7th month, 1659, and was proven on the 15th of the 8th month of the same year. He left by his will his dwelling house and lands to his wife during her life, "and after unto my five children, to be equally divided; my eldest son having a double portion."

Register of N. H. Society of C. D.'s of America, 1910, p. 102.
Mass. Society of C. D.'s of America, 1905, p. 339.
Society of Colonial Wars, 1899-1902, p. 682.
Whitman's History of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Co., p. 72.

Isaac (John) of Roxbury, Mass., was born in England in 1615. Became a Freeman Mar. 4, 1635; Captain of Roxbury, 1653; Lieutenant Ancient and Honorable Artillery Co., 1665, and its Captain, 1667; Deputy, 1671. He was killed at the head of his Company Dec. 19, 1675, being one of the six captains slain by the Indians at the taking of Fort Naragansett. A short will left by him is dated June 28, 1675, and inventoried £579 12. 6. He was m. Jan. 20, 1637, to Elizabeth Porter. Their children were:

Elizabeth, b. Dec. 21, 1637, m. Dec. 20, 1658, Henry Bowen.
Mary, b. April 28, 1642 (?), m. Dec. 18, 1663, William Bartholemew.
Isaac, b. 1642, bapt. Jan. 7, 1644, m. Mary Harris (See Harris Family).
Joseph, b. Nov. 9, 1645, d. 1645.
Nathaniel, b. May 1, 1647, m. April 29, 1667, Mary Smith.

Elizabeth, Porter, Johnson, d. Aug. 13, 1683.

Reg. N. H. Society C. D.'s of America, 1910, p. 102.
Mass. Society of C. D.'s of America, 1905, p. 339.
Whitman's History of A. and H. Ar. Co., p. 151.
Roberts' Hist. of A. and H. Ar. Co.

Isaac (Isaac, John) was born in Roxbury, Mass., in 1642, and was m. there Dec. 29, 1669, to Mary Harris. They settled in Middletown, Conn., in 1670, where he d. Feb. 13, 1719. Their children were:

Isaac, b. Dec. 19, 1670, m. Margaret Miller.
Daniel, b. Oct. 8, 1672, m. Abigail Leek.
John, b. Aug. 1, 1674, d. Jan. 5, 1692-3.
Joseph, b. Mar. 9, 1677, m. Elizabeth Blake (See Blake Family).
Nathanile, b. Jan. 17, 1678, m. Margaret Blake.
Elizabeth, b. Feb. 19, 1680-1, m. John Blake.
William, b. Mar. 14, 1682-3.
Mary, b. Jan. 18, 1686, m. Jonathan Blake.
Ebenezer, b. Oct. 29, 1692.

Mary, Harris, Johnson d. in Middletown, Conn., previous to June 5, 1714.

Hist. of Middlesex Co., Town of Middletown, p. 63.

Joseph (Isaac, Isaac, John) b. in Middletown, Conn., Mar. 9, 1677, d. there Nov. 12, 1739, m. Elizabeth Blake Jan. 25, 1698. Their children:

Elizabeth, b. Dec. 12, 1699, m. William Harris (See Harris Family).
Joseph, b. Aug. 26, 1702, d. June 27, 1780.
Richard, b. Nov. 12, 1704.
Zepporah, b. Jan. 4, 1706-7.
Anna, b. Jan. 11, 1708, d. Oct. 15, 1712.
Anna, b. June 8, 1715.
Martha, b. April 27, 1718.

THE PORTER FAMILY

Edward Porter came to New England in 1635-6 with his wife, Elizabeth, and sons John, b. 1633, and William, b. 1635. Other children came afterward. It would appear that Edward Porter was m. twice, his first wife being named Rhoda ——.

Elizabeth Porter, daughter of Edward and Rhoda, ——, Porter, m. Jan. 20, 1637, Capt. Isaac Johnson, of Roxbury, Mass. (See Johnson Family).

THE HARRIS FAMILY

Thomas and Elizabeth Harris are supposed to have come to this country about 1630. They settled in Charlestown, Mass. The date of Thomas Harris' death is not known. His wife Elizabeth m. 2nd, in 1633, Deacon William Stilson. She died in Charlestown, Feb. 16, 1669-70. Children of Thomas and Elizabeth Harris, all born in England:

Thomas, m. Martha Lake.
William, m. 1st 1641-2, Edith ——. She died Aug. 5, 1685. He m. 2nd, Lydia, widow of Joseph Cook.
John, m. 1st, Bridget; m. 2nd Alice Anthony.
Daniel, b. 1626. d. Nov. 30, 1701, m. Mary Weld (See Weld Family).
Mary, m. Elias Maverick.

Daniel (Thomas) born in England, 1626, came to America with his parents; settled in Rowley, Mass., about 1643; m. in 1648-9 Mary Weld of Roxbury, Mass. About 1653 he moved with his family to Middletown, Conn., where he had land recorded June 9, 1659. At a session of the General Court held Feb. 23, 1659, Daniel Harris was approved for an Ordinary Keeper in Middletown. He was Lieutenant of the Train Band in 1661, and elected its Captain, 1667. Was Deputy to the General Court, Middletown, Conn., 1678-84-87-89. With the exception of Mary, who was born in Rowley, Mass., all the children of Daniel and Mary, Weld, Harris were born in Middletown, Conn. They were:

Mary, b. Apr. 2, 1651, m. Isaac Johnson, Jr. (See Johnson Family).
Daniel, b. July 15, 1653, m. Abigail Barnes (See Barnes Family).
Joseph, b. Feb. 12, 1655.
Thomas, b. May 20, 1657, m. 1st, Tabitha ——; m. 2nd, Zepporah ——.
Elizabeth, b. Mar. 22, 1660, m. John Hunnewell; had child, Abiell.
Sarah, b. Feb. 17, 1661, d. Mar. 15, 1661.
Sarah, b. Sept. 3, 1663, m. Samuel Bardwell.
William, b. July 17, 1665, m. Martha Collins (See Collins Family).
John, b. Jan. 4, 1668, m. 1st, Susanna Collins; m. 2nd, Medwell Lyman.
Hannah, b. Feb. 11, 1670, m. 1st —— Cook; m. 2nd —— Sprage.

Daniel Harris, Sr., d. Nov. 30, 1701. Mary, Weld, Harris d. Sept. 5, 1711.

Hist. of Middlesex Co., Town of Middletown, p. 63.
Mass. Society of C. D.'s of America, 1905, p. 328.
Savage Genealogical Dictionary, Vol. 2, p. 360.

Daniel (Daniel, Thomas) was born July 16, 1653; m. Dec. 14, 1680, Abigail Barnes. Their children were:

Abigail, b. Feb. 7, 1682-3, m. Capt. Joseph Cornwell.
Mary, b. May 11, 1685, m. William Ward.
Elizabeth, d. young.
Daniel, b. Oct. 2, 1688, m. Abigail Meriam or Merriman.
Joseph, b. Mar. 1, 1691, m. Mary ——.
Patience, b. May 15, 1693, m. Ezekiel Gilbert (See Gilbert Family).

Abigail, Barnes, Harris d. May 22, 1723. Daniel Harris m. 2nd, Elizabeth, Bedell, Cook, widow of Samuel Cook of Wallingford. They resided in Middletown, Conn., where he d. Oct. 18, 1735.

William (Daniel, Thomas) b. July 17, 1665, in Middletown, Conn., d. there Feb. 19, 1751; m. Jan. 8, 1690, Martha Collins, who d. Aug. 1, 1750. Their children:

Mary, b. Feb. 9, 1691-2.
Sibbil, b. Apr. 30, 1695, m. Jonathan Yemans.
William, b. May 20, 1697, d. June 17, 1740, m. Elizabeth Johnson (See Johnson Family).
Prudence, b. Jan. 1700-1.

"July 17, 1718, William Harris and wife Martha of Middletown conveyed to their son Jonathan Yemans and to their daughter Sibbil land which descended to said William and Martha part of her portion of

the estate of her father Ensign Samuel Collins deseased of Middletown." William Harris was Ensign of the Train Band of Middletown in 1712; confirmed Captain of the same later; and was Deputy in the year 1720.

Colonial Records of Conn., Vol. 5, p. 311; Vol. 6, pp. 25, 173, 233; Vol. 7, p. 193.
Middletown Land Records, Vol. 4, p. 28.
N. E. Hist. and Gen. Register, 1907, pp. 280-1.

William (William, Daniel, Thomas) b. May 20, 1697, in Middletown, Conn., d. there June 15, 1740; m. Elizabeth Johnson in Middletown Feb. 2, 1720.

Children:

Prudence, b. Sept. 18, 1721, m. Jonathan Gilbert (See Gilbert Family).
Elizabeth, b. Aug. 26, 1723.
Joseph, b. June 28, 1727.
Martha, b. Jan. 5, 1731-2.
Sibbel, b. June 20, 1734.
Zeporah, b. Oct. 18, 1740.

Elizabeth, Johnson, Harris m. 2nd —— Doolittle; she d. Mar. 12, 1777.

THE HALL FAMILY

John Hall, b. Kent Co., Eng., in 1584, d. May 26, 1673, in Middletown, Conn. We know that he came to America in 1633, as his will, dated May 14, 1673, states that was his fortieth year of living in New England. He was married to Esther ——, who probably died in England before the family left there. John Hall settled first in Boston, but soon removed to Roxbury, where we find the prefix "Mr." accorded him on the records of Elliott's Church. In those days but few persons were addressed by this prefix, and it usually indicated that such persons were entitled to a coat of arms. John Hall's name is found on a rate list on the Roxbury records, 1634, in which his family is recorded as consisting of four persons. On Sept. 4, 1633, he, with John Oldham and two other men, left for the Conn. River. They returned to the Bay town Jan. 20, 1634, and it was their favorable report of the rich bottom land on the river which led to the migration from Dorchester to Wethersfield and Windsor, and from Cambridge to Hartford, in 1635-6. Mr. Hall was made Freeman in Boston, 1635. He probably joined the Hooker and Stone colony and went to Hartford soon after, but did not remove his family until 1639. In that year he bought land of Wm. Hooker and Wm. Bloomfield, and drew the house lot No. 77 of 6 acres on the brow of Lord's Hill. He was Surveyor of Highways in Hartford, 1640. In 1650 he settled in Middletown and Mar. 15, 1659, the General Court held at Hartford appointed him to enter and record such goods as were subject to custom for Middletown. The children of John and Esther, ——, Hall were all born in England. They were:

John, b. 1619, d. Jan. 22, 1694-5.
Richard, b. 1620.
Sarah, b. 1622, m. Thomas Wetmore (See Wetmore Family).
Samuel, b. 1626.

Hist. of Middlesex Co., Conn., Town of Middletown, p. 63.

Richard (John) b. in England in 1620, d. Mar. 27, 1691, Middletown, Conn. He m. Mary ——, who came with him to Middletown from Hartford in 1650, and who d. Mar. 30, 1691. Richard Hall had lands recorded June 9, 1654; his home lot contained 5 acres and was situated on the north side of Main street, a strip of land extending between Court and College to High street. Children of Richard and Mary, ——, Hall:

Mary, b. 1646, m. Anthony Martin Mar. 10, 1665.
John, b. Sept. 20, 1648.
Jane, b. Mar., 1653.
Sarah, b. May, 1654, m. John Blake (See Blake Family).
Richard, b. June 16, 1656, killed by the Indians in King Phillip's War, Hadley, Mass., May 30, 1676.
Samuel, b. Sept., 1658.
Ann (or Amy), b. Mar. 20, 1661.
Hall data from "Hall Genealogy," by Rev. David B. Hall.

THE WELD FAMILY

The Weld family dates back to 1352. The New England family came from Suffolk, England, in 1632. Joseph Weld and wife Elizabeth settled in Roxbury, Mass., in 1632, the Colony making him a grant of land now West Roxbury. This was the family home for 200 years. Savage says: "He was the richest man in the Colony at the time of his death and one of the first donors to Harvard College." "Capt. Joseph Weld, Roxbury," this name in the oldest roll of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, appears Capt. —— Weld, but in the list of annual officers elected is Capt. Joseph Weld. He is the first person elected as Ensign of the Company, 1638. He was Freeman in 1636, and Deputy from Roxbury to Mass. General Court in that year and five years after, so he must have been a Representative when the Charter was granted. He lived in Roxbury, was by profession a merchant and was the first Captain of the Roxbury Band, dying Oct. 7, 1646, while holding that position. He is supposed to have been the son of Ed-

mund Weld and Amye, his wife. Edmund Weld died 1608, Sudbury, England. The parentage of Elizabeth, the wife of Capt. Joseph Weld, is not known, although one authority claims her maiden name to have been Shatswell. She died Oct., 1638. He m. 2nd on April 30, 1639, Barbara, daughter of Nicholas Clap, of Vennottery, England. Their children were:

Daniel.
Sarah, m. John Franck.
Marah, m. Comfort Starr.

The widow married Anthony Stoddard.

The children of Joseph and Elizabeth Weld:

John.
Thomas.
Edmund.
Mary, b. 1627, in Co. Essex, Eng., 38 miles from London, m. Daniel Harris (See Harris Family).
Hannah.

Whitman's History of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, p. 37.
Society of Colonial Wars, 1899-1902, p. 803.
Register of Mass. Society of Colonial Dames. 1905, p. 395.
Register of the New Hampshire Society of Colonial Dames of America, 1910, p. 140.

THE STOW FAMILY

John Stow, the emigrant ancestor of this family, was b. in 1595 in the Parish of Hauckhurst, Kent Co., Eng. He m. Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Rachel, Martin, Bigg. Their six children were born in England, and came to America with their parents, sailing Apr. 9, 1634, and landing in Boston May 17. They settled in Roxbury, which joined Boston on the west. Their children were:

Thomas, b. 1617, d. 1684, m. Mary Gragg.
Elizabeth, b. 1619, m. 1st Henry Archer; m. 2nd Christopher Smith.
John, b. 1621.
Nathaniel, b. 1623, d. 1704.
Samuel, b. 1624, d. 1704, m. Hope Fletcher.
Thankful, m. John Pierpont (ancestor of Pierpont Morgan).

John Stow went back to England for the purpose of closing up his affairs there, returning again accompanied by his mother-in-law, in the ship "Elizabeth" from London, Capt. Stagg, Master, Apr. 12, 1635. The certificate of the Minister of Hauckhurst gives his age at that time as 40 years. He was a man of good standing, a farmer, "of fair estate," holding in 1638 250 acres of land, 20 goats and 20 kids; and in 1642 was granted 100 acres of land for transcribing the laws of the Colony. His house was on Meeting House Hill, near the N. W. corner of Cedar and Highland streets, on an estate of 11½ acres. He was Freeman in 1634; member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in 1638; and Representative to the Gen. Court, 1638-39. Was buried Oct. 26, 1643. Elizabeth, Bigg, Stow was buried Aug. 24, 1638. In the handwriting of the Apostle John Elliott on the Church Records appears the following regarding her:

"She was a very godly Matron, a blessing not only to her family but to all the church where she had lead a Christian conversation a few years among us. She died and left a good sorrow behind her." Rachel, Martin, Bigg settled in Roxbury, Mass., and d. there in 1646, leaving substantial legacies to each of the children of her daughter, Elizabeth Stow.

Whitmans Hist.' Hon. Artillery Co., p. 77.
Society Colonial Wars, 1899-1902, p. 774.
"Stow Genealogy," by A. S. Wiester.

Samuel (John) b. in England, 1624, was a member of the third class from the commencement of Harvard College. He graduated in 1645, and was Freeman in the same year while undergraduate, but had his degree four weeks later. He taught the public school at Roxbury, Mass., then studied for the ministry with the Rev. John Maverick; preached first at Chelmsford, Mass., where he married Hope, daughter of Wm. Fletcher. He afterwards ministered over the first church of Charleston, Mass.; then to Concord, Mass., and in 1652 he joined planters at Middletown, where he preached some ten years, but was not settled. He had much difficulty about "tenets and pay," and was dismissed —— Trumbull, the historian, says: "on account of the evil temper of the people towards him." Afterwards he preached at Windsor, Farmington, and Wethersfield; also formed the first church at Simsbury and was settled some years. He owned large estates of land in Maromus and Middletown, and 36 acres house lot corner Main and Washington streets. The list of householders and proprietors of Middletown, Conn., taken Mar. 22, 1670-1, shows Rev. Samuel Stow, £19400. In 1660 he and his brother Thomas sold to two men 600 acres in Concord near Sudbury line. These two brothers, Samuel and Thomas, were the progenitors of all who bear the name of Stow in Conn. Rev. Samuel Stow d. May 8, 1704, leaving by will for the benefit of education a tract of land which still bears his name. Children of Samuel and Hope, Fletcher, Stow (all except John probably born in Middletown):

John, b. Jan. 6, 1650, Charlestown,

Mass., d. Oct. 18, 1688, m. Mary Wetmore.
Ichabod, b. Feb. 20, 1653.
Hope, b. Feb. 4, 1657.
Dorothy, b. Aug. 4, 1659, m. Jonathan Gilbert (See Gilbert Family).
Elizabeth, b. Aug. 1, 1662, m. Maybee Barnes.
Thankful, b. May 5, 1664.
Rachel, b. Mar. 13, 1667, m. Izrahiah Wetmore (See Wetmore Family).
Margaret, m. Beriah Wetmore.

Mass. So. C. D., 1905, pp. 35, 382.
Savage, Vol. 4, pp. 217-218.
Hist. Middlesex Co., Conn., Town of Middletown, p. 63.
"Stow Genealogy," by A. S. Wiester.

THE WHITE FAMILY

Robert White of Messing, Essex Co., England, yeoman, buried June 17, 1617, resided at Shelford from June 24, 1585, the date of his marriage. His wife was baptized Mar. 11, 1562, Brydgette Allger, daughter of William Allger, the elder. The baptism of nearly all the children of Robert White is recorded at Shelford, as is also the marriage of his two daughters. His children were, together with his wife, mentioned in his will. They were:

Mary (or Marie), m. Joseph Lummus.
Elizabeth, m. William Goodwin.
Sarah, m. James Boutell.
Bridgett.
Ann.
Nathaniel.
John, m. Mary Levit, Dec. 26, 1622.
Daniel.

John (Robert) m. Dec. 26, 1622, Mary Levit, probably daughter of that William Levit, whose will he witnessed in 1626. She was still living in Mar., 1660. He came to America with Elder Goodwin in the ship "Lion," which sailed about June 22, 1632. They arrived at Boston, Sept. 16, and he settled in Cambridge, Mass., his home lot being on the street now occupied by Gore Hall, Harvard University, but then called "Cow Yard Row." He was admitted Freeman Mar. 4, 1633, Townsman in 1635. Afterwards sold his homestead and other lands, describing himself May 30, 1636, of the new town upon the Conn. River. Came to Hartford in 1636 with the Hooker Company, his home lot there being on the east side of what is now Governor street, about ten rods from Park River, next to Gov. Hopkins and to Gov. Wyllys. In 1642 he was a Townsman; also in 1646, 1651, and 1656. In 1653 he was granted various tracts in Middletown, as he had evinced an intention to remove thither. The Rev. Thomas Hooker dying in 1657, the divergence of views on church matters reached such a pass that John White, Elder Goodwin, and others in 1659 founded the town of Hadley, Mass., where he held many offices. Returning to Hartford in 1670, he united with the South Church, of which he became an Elder. This position exempted him from holding town offices or performing civil service; but as arbitrator, referee, and counsellor in church matters he performed good work. He died between Dec. 17, 1683, the date of his will, and Jan. 23, 1684, the date of the inventory. Children of John and Mary, Levit, White:

John.
Mary, b. July 16, 1626, m. Jonathan Gilbert (See Gilbert Family).
Nathaniel, b. 1629, d. 1711, m. 1st Elizabeth ——, m. 2nd Widow Martha Mould, daughter of John Colt of New Haven.
Sarah.
Daniel, b. 1639, d. 1713.
Jacob, b. at Hartford, Conn., Oct. 8, 1645.

"Middletown Upper Houses," by Chas. C. Adams.

THE COLLINS FAMILY

John Collins of London, Salter, buried at Brampton, Suffolk Co., Eng., m. Abigail, daughter of Thomas Rose of Exmouth, Devon Co., buried at Braintree, Essex Co., Eng. Their children were:

Edward, b. about 1603, m. Martha ——.
Daniel of London, a merchant, 1632, m. Syble, daughter of Thomas Franklyn of London, a goldsmith.
John immigrated to Boston, Mass., 1634, m. Susanna.
Samuel, vicar of Braintree, Essex Co.
Abigail, m. Rev. William Thompson of Braintree, Mass.

Edward (John) appears first in Cambridge, Mass., 1638, where he was Deacon of the First Church; was Freeman, May 13, 1641; Deputy from Cambridge to the Gen. Court from 1654 to 1670, with the exception of the year 1661. He had brought to New Eng. with him his wife Martha and several children. For many years he lived on the plantation of Gov. Craddock at Medford; then purchased it, and sold off a considerable portion. "Martha, ——, Collins relates that her father was careful in catechising her and at 19 began to seek the Lord for herself." Her husband died in Charlestown, Mass., Apr. 9, 1689. Their children were:

Daniel, b. 1629.
John, b. 1633, d. Dec. 3, 1687.
Samuel, b. 1635-6, d. Jan. 10, 1696, m. Mary Marvin (See Marvin Family).
Syble, b. 1638, m. 1st Rev. John Whiting; m. 2nd Rev. John Russell.
Martha, b. Sept., 1639, m. Rev. Joshua Moody.
Nathaniel, b. Mar., 1642, d. Dec. 28, 1684, m. Mary Whiting.

Abigail, b. Sept. 20, 1644, m. 1663, John, son of Capt. Thomas Willit.
Edward, bapt. June, 1646, in Cambridge.

Mass. Register C. D., 1905, pp. 135, 300.
Society of Colonial Wars (Missouri) 1900, p. 32.
Pope's Pioneers of Mass., p. 112.

Samuel (Deacon Edward, John) b. 1635-6, d. Jan. 10, 1696, in Middletown, Conn., m. about 1663 Mary Marvin, who d. Mar. 6, 1713-14 (see Marvin Family). He settled in Middletown in 1665, and had land recorded there Feb. 28, 1667, and Mar. 22, 1670. He was Representative in 1672, and bore the title "Ensign Samuel Collins." The children of Samuel and Mary, Marvin, Collins:

Edward, b. at Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 18, 1664.
Martha, b. at Middletown, Conn., Mar. 3, 1666, m. William Harris (See Harris Family).
Samuel, b. Oct. 21, 1668.
Syble, b. Feb. 25, 1671, m. 1st Isaac Rice; m. 2nd George Reed.
Mary, b. Jan. 16, 1672, m. Richard Moore.
Abigail, b. June 2, 1673, m. William Ward.
David, b. Oct. 5, 1675, d. June 6, 1689.

Boston Transcript, Feb. 12, 1901.
N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg., July, 1907, pp. 281-282; and 1861, p. 163.
Hist. of Middlesex Co., Conn., Town of Middletown, p. 63.

THE MARVIN FAMILY

The first family by the name of Marvin to come to New England consisted of two brothers, Mathew, who arrived in 1635, and Reinold, and a sister Hannah. The two brothers were among the original settlers of Hartford, Conn., and both proprietors of land in that ancient town. Reinold Marvin was born in Great Bently, England, 1593, and married his wife Mary —— about 1617. Reinold sold his land in Hartford and removed to Farmington, of which town he was probably among the first settlers. About 1648 he sold his property in Farmington to John Warner. He then removed to that part of Saybrook which is now called Lynn, where he died in 1662. In his will, dated May 23, 1662, he gave his daughter "Mare household goods, my wife's wearing clothes and linens, cattle, etc." His wife Mary died in Lynn, Conn., in 1661. Her death is said to have been caused by witchcraft. Reinold and Mary, ——, Marvin had two children:

Reinold, b. 1634, m. in 1663 Sarah Clark.
Mary, bapt. Oct. 23, 1636, in St. Mary's Church, Great Bentley, Essex, England; m. about 1663, Samuel Collins (See Collins Family).

Hartford County Court Records. Vol. III, reverse end p. 1.
Marvin Genealogy.

THE BARNES FAMILY

Thomas Barnes came to New Haven when still a boy, and no mention is found of his name until about 1644, when he became of age and shared in the land distribution. He married about 1647 Elizabeth ——, whose family name has not been found. They resided in New Haven until 1660 or 1665, when they moved to North Haven, and in 1671 to that part of Middletown now Middlefield, where he died in 1693. Children of Thomas and Elizabeth, ——, Barnes were:

John, b. 1648, m. Mary Batts.
Elizabeth, b. Aug. 28, 1650, m 1st Benjamin Brackett; 2nd John Austin.
Thomas, b. Aug. 26, 1653, m. 1st Mary Hubbard; 2nd Abigail Frost.
Mercy, b. 1655, m. Bartholomew Iacobs.
Abigail, b. Mar. 16, 1657, m Daniel Harris (See Harris Family).
Daniel, b. Aug. 27, 1659, m. Mary Taylor.
Martha, b. 1661.
Maybee, b. Jan. 25, 1663, m. Elizabeth Stow.

Hist. of Middlesex Co., Conn., Town of Middletown, p. 63.

THE BLAKE FAMILY

John Blake, b. probably in Malden, Eng., about 1652, settled in Middletown, Conn., in 1677, where he d. Nov. 11, 1690. He m. in 1673 Sarah Hall (see Hall Family), who m. 2nd Edward Turner. She d. Dec. 16, 1726. In 1683 John Blake gave a deed in which he called George Durant his father. Probably this George Durant was the second husband of John Blake's mother, Elizabeth, ——, Blake. Children of John and Sarah, Hall, Blake were as follows:

Mercy, b. Nov. 16, 1673, m. Samuel Roberts.
Sarah, b. Feb. 15, 1675, m. John Roberts.
Margaret, b. July 16, 1677, m. Nathaniel Johnson.
Elizabeth, b. Mar. 16, 1679, m. Joseph Johnson (See Johnson Family).
Abigail, b. July 25, 1681.
John, b. May 19, 1683, m. Elizabeth Johnson.
Jonathan, b. July 27, 1685, m. Mary Johnson.
Stephen, b. July 15, 1687, m. 1st Hannah Cole; 2nd Abigail Hubbard.

"Hall Genealogy," by Rev. David Hall.
Hist. of Middlesex Co., Conn., Town of Middletown, p. 63.

THE GILBERT FAMILY

The name of "Gilbert" is Saxon. It is found on the Roll of Battle Abbey T. Gibbard. In 1060 Gilbert de Gaunt came with William the Conqueror. This name is eminent in the annals of Church, State, and learning of England through several centuries. Its early and principal home is in Devonshire. They possessed lands in Manaton, in or near Dartmoor, in Edward the Confessor's day, 1272-1307. Pence, in his "Worthies of Devon," says that the Gilberts have matched as they descended into honorable houses, as of Champernon, Croker, Hill, Chadleighy, Agar, Molineaux, Pomeay, and Grenviles. They have married also daughters and heirs of Compton, Champernon and Valletort, whereby they touched the royal blood.

N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg., Vol. 4, pp. 225-232.

Five men by the name of Gilbert came early into the Connecticut Colony: Jonathan, John, Josiah, Obadiah, and Thomas. It can be proven by documents that the first four were brothers, and probably Thomas was the fifth. Jonathan Gilbert settled in Hartford, where he died Dec. 10, 1682, aged 64. He became a prominent man, a large landholder, Captain, Collector of Customs, and Marshal of the Colony; Cornet in Capt. John Mason's Troupe of Horse in the Pequot War; member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, 1653; and Deputy to the General Court of Hartford, 1677-81. He married, Jan. 29, 1645-46, Mary White (see White Family), who was born in England, and died in Hartford July 22, 1649-50. Jonathan and Mary, White, Gilbert had two children:

Jonathan, b. Dec. 11, 1648, m. Dorothy Stow (See Stow Family).
Mary, b. 1649, d. 1649.

Jonathan, Sr., m. 2nd, Mary, daughter of Hugh and Frances Wells, and they had the following children:

Thomas.
Sarah.
Lydia.
Nathaniel.
Mary.
Hester.
Rachel.
Samuel.
Ebenezer.

Mass. Register of Colonial Dames of America, 1905, p. 322.
Trumbull's History of Connecticut, Vol. 1, p. 222.
N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg., 1850, pp. 229-232; same for 1868, p. 348.

Jonathan Gilbert (Jonathan) b. Dec. 11, 1648, in Hartford, d. Mar. 7, 1697-8, in Middletown, Conn., where he had settled in 1672. He was rather a wild young man and his father in his will gave him less than the portion of the first born. Being dissatisfied thereby, Jonathan, Jr., appealed to the General Court of Conn., saying in his petition that he was the first born by his father's first wife, and had been fully reconciled to his father after his return from the West Indies and his marriage to the daughter of Mr. Stow. His petition was granted, his step-mother consenting, 1684. Jonathan, Jr., m. June 22, 1679, Dorothy Stow. She was b. Aug. 1, 1659, d. July 4, 1698 (see Stow Family). Their children were:

Mary, b. May 18, 1680.
A son, d. Mar. 31, 1681.
Mehitable, b. Feb. 8, 1682.
John, b. June 30, 1683.
Jonathan, b. Sept. 8, 1684, d. Sept. 27, 1684.
A son, b. Apr. 11, 1686.
Jonathan, b. Apr. 8, 1687.
Nathaniel, b. Dec. 21, 1689.
Ezekiel, b. May 16, 1693, m. Patience Harris (See Harris Family).
Sarah, b. June 8, 1695.
Mehitable, b. 1696.
Ebenezer (posthumous) b. 1698, between Mar. 7 and July 4.

Ezekiel Gilbert (Jonathan, Jonathan), b. May 16, 1693, d. Aug. 25, 1752; m. in Middletown, Dec. 2, 1714, Patience Harris (see Harris Family), who died Aug. 15, 1777. Their children were:

Jonathan, b. Feb. 24, 1715-16, m. Prudence Harris (See Harris Family).
Patience, b. June 12, 1718, d. Feb. 16, 1742.
Ezekiel, b. Nov. 28, 1720.
Elizabeth, b. June 15, 1723-4.
Lament, b. Aug. 20, 1727.
Joseph, b. May 9, 1731.
Abigail, b. Jan. 1, 1733-4.
David, b. April 9, 1736.

Jonathan Gilbert (Ezekiel, Jonathan, Jonathan), b. in Middletown, Feb. 24, 1715-16, m. Oct. 25, 1739, Prudence Harris (see Harris Family), who d. Aug. 30, 1797. Their children were:

A child, b. 1740, soon d.
Martha, b. Nov. 18, 1773.
Daniel, b. Jan. 15, 1745.
Jonathan, b. Feb. 21, 1747, m. Dec. 6, 1770, Lucy Ward.
Prudence, b. Aug. 6, 1750, m. May 4, 1769, Daniel Stow. and settled in Conway, Mass.
Elizabeth, b. Jan. 29, 1753, m. Oct. 29, 1772, Timothy Powers; had daughter Elizabeth, who m. Daniel Whiting.
Ezekiel, b. Mar. 25, 1756; grad. of Yale, 1778. Settled in Hudson, N. Y., before 1793; M. C. from N. Y. from 1793-1797; also a judge.
William, b. June 24, 1758, m. Apr. 6, 1789, Hope Burr.

Patience, b. Nov. 9, 1760.
Sarah, b. Nov. 1, 1763, m. Feb. 9, 1790, Hezekiah Gear (See Gear Family).

Jonathan Gilbert d. Jan. 3, 1812.

THE GEAR FAMILY

George Geer, son of Jonathan, was b. in England, d. in 1726, m. Feb. 17, 1658, Sarah Allyn. She was the daughter of Robert, b. 1608, d. 1683, and Sarah, ——, Allyn. George Geer and wife Sarah had a son Jonathan, who was b. May 26, 1662, and d. Apr. 30, 1742. He m. Mary ——, who d. Apr. 24, 1718. Their son Jonathan was born, married and died, in Preston, Conn. He m. June 1, 1721, Elizabeth Herrick, who d. Feb. 10, 1743-4 (see Herrick Family). They had a son:

Samuel, b. June 3, 1731, m. 1st Esther Clough; m. 2nd Abigail, Wetmore, Burt (See Wetmore Family).

Samuel Gear, son of Jonathan and Elizabeth, Herrick, Gear, was b. June 3, 1731, in Preston, Conn. On July 25, 1753, he was m. in Middletown to widow Esther Clough. They had four children:

Samuel.
Esther.
Epaperas.
George, bapt. Mar. 9, 1760.

The date of Esther, Clough, Gear's death is not known. Samuel Gear m. 2nd in 1760 or 1761, Abigail, Wetmore, Burt. They had one son:

Hezekiah, b. 1761, m. Sarah Gilbert (See Gilbert Family).

Samuel Gear was buried from the First Congregational Church at Middletown in Apr., 1765. Administration was granted on his estate, Aug. 1, 1765. The estate proved insolvent, and his widow, Abigail, had necessaries set out to her.

Middletown Town Records.

Hezekiah, son of Samuel and Abigail, Wetmore, Burt, Gear, b. in Middletown Apr. 26, 1761, d. Aug. 4, 1822, Pittsfield, Mass., m. Sarah Gilbert Feb. 9, 1790. Their children born in Middletown:

Charles, b. Sept. 30, 1790, m. Hannah Hutton.
Hezekiah, b. Dec. 17, 1791, d. June 8, 1877, m. 1st Charlotte Clark, b. June 19, 1800, d. Sept. 13, 1833. She was mother of Charlotte, Gear, Girdon, and Clarissa, Gear, Hobbs.
Ezekiel Gilbert, b. Sept. 13, 1793, m. 1st Miranda Cook; m. 2nd Mary Yardley How.
Sarah, b. Mar. 9, 1795, d. unmarried.
Emily, b. Dec. 28, 1796, m. —— Smith.
Sophia, b. Apr. 9, 1799, d. May 9, 1799.

About 1800 Hezekiah Gear moved with his family to Pittsfield Mass., where the following children were born:

Sophia, b. May 10, 1800, m. —— Farriss.
William Titus, b. May 16, 1802, m. Dorothy ——.
Angelica, b. July 31, 1804, m. Judge Charles Mason; left dau. Mary, wife of Adm. George Remy, Wash., D. C.
Samuel, b. Jan. 10, 1807, d. unmarried.

Sarah, Gilbert, Gear d. in Galena, Ill., Nov. 6, 1837.

Records First Cong. Church, Middletown, Conn.
Records from family Bible of Hezekiah and Sarah Gear—now property of Mary, Mason, Remy.

Ezekiel Gilbert Gear, Chaplain U. S. A., b. in Middletown, Conn., Sept. 13, 1793, baptized there Oct. 6, 1793, in the Church of Holy Trinity, formerly Christ Church. His sponsors were his father, Ichabod Wetmore, and Mrs. George Bartlett. In the same church Ezekiel Gilbert Gear was confirmed and ordained Deacon by Bishop Griswold. He m. 1st in Chesterfield, N. H., Mar. 22, 1819, Miranda Cook. Their children were:

Mary Elizabeth, b. Jan. 5, 1820, d. 1875, m. 1st Lieut. Samuel Whitehorn (one child, Samuel, d. young); m. 2nd Lieut. Thomas Caster.
Margaret Ann, b. Apr. 10, 1822, d. Mar. 24, 1852, m. Lieut. Stephen Carpenter (had dau. Alice, who m. James Postlewait).
John Henry, b. Apr. 7, 1825, d. July 14, 1900, m. Harriett Foot, 1852. He was M. C. and Gov. of Iowa, and at time of his death U. S. Sen. from that State.

Miranda, Cook, Gear d. Jan. 18, 1826.

In St. Peter's Church, Auburn, N. Y., May 16, 1829, Ezekiel Gilbert Gear m. 2nd, Mary Yardley How. Their children were:

Thomas Rudd.
Edmund Theodore.
Sarah Eliza.
Angelica Rose, d. Sept. 11, 1870, m. Lieut. A. E. Latimer, U. S. A.
Emilie Louise, d. Apr. 21, 1909, unmarried.
Reginald Heber.
Gertrude Irene, m. John J. Stubbs.
Grace Bertha, d. June 10, 1909, unmarried.

Ezekiel Gilbert Gear d. in Minneapolis, Minn., Oct. 13, 1873. Mary Yardley How Gear d. in same place, Oct. 18, 1892.

"List of Officers of U. S. A., 1776-1900," by Col. Wm. H. Rowell, U. S. A., p. 326.
How Genealogy.

Gertrude Irene Gear b. at Fort Snelling, Minn., m. in Minneapolis, Minn., Oct. 12, 1881, John J. Stubbs (b. in West Elkton, Ohio). They have one son:

Jesse Gilbert Stubbs, b. in Oakland, Neb., Sept. 28, 1882.

THE WETMORE FAMILY

John Whitmore came to this country in 1630, and was killed by Indians in 1648. He was m. in England to his first wife, whose name is not known. The following children were born to them in England:

Thomas, b. 1615.
Ann, b. 1621.
Mary, b. 1623.
Francis, b. 1625.
John, b. 1627.

"Whitmore Genealogy," by Jessie Whitmore and Patten Purdy, p. 7.
Burk's "Landed Gentry."

Thomas Wetmore was born in Eng., 1615, and came to Mass. in 1635. Removed to Hartford, Conn., and in 1650 to Middletown, where his house lot of 5 acres adjoined that of John Hall's son on the south. He became a Deacon of the church; was made Freeman at a session of the Gen. Court in May, 1652; Constable for Mattabeseck at a session of the Particular Court held in March, 1652-3, and again in March, 1663; chosen Townsman in Nov. 1654, and in 1657, Feb., 1668-71-73, and Dec., 1679; a Commissioner to enlist men of the Colony against the Indians, 1653-54; Grand Levy Man, Apr., 1654, and Mar., 1654-5; Rate Maker in March, 1660, Apr., 1663, Dec., 1666, and Nov., 1674; Pounder in March, 1662, and Feb. 1666; Deputy from Middletown to the Gen. Court, Sept. and Oct., 1654, and Mar., 1654-5. He m. 1st, Dec. 11, 1645, Sarah, daughter of John Hall of Middletown (see Hall Family). She d. Dec. 7, 1664. He m. 2nd, Jan. 3, 1666, widow Mary Atkinson, who d. June 17, 1669. He m. 3rd, Oct. 8, 1673, Catherine Leefe (Leeke or Leete). Thomas Wetmore had seventeen children. He made his will July 20, 1681, and d. Dec. 11, of the same year. His widow, Catherine, died Oct. 13, 1693. Children of Thomas and Sarah, Hall, Wetmore:

John, b. Sept. 8, 1646, m. Abigail Warner.
Elizabeth, b. 1648, m. Josiah Atkins.
Mary, b. 1649, m. John Stow.
Sarah, b. 1651, d. 1665.
Thomas, b. 1652, m. Elizabeth Hubbard.
Hannah, b. 1653, m. Nathaniel Stow.
Samuel b. 1655, m. Mary Bacon.
Izrahiah, b. 1656-7, m. Rachel Stow (See Stow Family).
Nathaniel, b. 1661, m. Dorcas Allen.
Joseph, b. 1662, m. Lydia Bacon.
Sarah, b. 1664, m. John Bacon.

Society of Colonial Wars, 1899-1902, p. 805.

Izrahiah, eighth child of Thomas and Sarah, Hall, Wetmore, was born in Middletown Mar. 9, 1656-7. At the age of 35, on May 13, 1692, he married Rachel, daughter of the Rev. Samuel Stow. He inherited property from his father, and, together with his wife Rachel, from his father-in-law. Besides this the Rev. Stow had, during his lifetime, given them deeds of land in various parts of Middletown. Izrahiah Wetmore held a number of public offices, beginning Dec., 1695, with his election as Townsman, or Selectman, which office he filled at various later dates. He was also Hayward; Poundkeeper; Surveyor of Highways; Constable for that part of town lying south of the Feery River; Grandjuryman; appointed on important committees by his fellow townsmen; Representative from Middletown to the Gen. Court at sixteen sessions from Oct., 1717, to May, 1729, both inclusive; and in May, 1726-28-29 was appointed one of the Justices for the County of Hartford, which included Middletown until 1785. His wife Rachel d. Jan. 8, 1722-3. He m. 2nd Hannah ——, prior to Dec., 1725, when she was admitted to membership in the First Church of Middletown by letter from the church at Saybrook. Izrahiah Wetmore made his will Mar. 26, 1741, making therein provision for his wife Hannah, and leaving his estate to his sons and grandchildren. He added a codicil Aug. 26, 1742, and an inventory of his estate was taken June 28, 1743, but the precise time of his death between these dates is unknown. The will was presented to the County Court July 5, 1743. The records show that he and Rachel, Stow, Wetmore had eight sons, six of whom survived their father. The children were:

Izrahiah, b. June 28, 1693.
Stow, b. Jan. 31, 1695.
James, b. Dec. 26, 1695.
Ichabod, b. Apr. 18, 1698.
Seth, b. Nov. 18, 1700.
Jeremiah, b. Nov. 8, 1703, m. Abigail Butler.
Caleb, b. July, 1706.
Josiah, b. Mar. 1, 1709.

Jeremiah, sixth child and son of Izra-

hiah and Rachel, Stow, Wetmore was b. in Middletown Nov. 8, 1703, and baptized 6 days later. He m. Feb. 25, 1724-5, Abigail Butler of Wethersfield. Jeremiah Wetmore resided on the north side of Washington street on land formerly owned by his father and maternal grandfather. He d. Oct. 2, 1753. His wife d. some time between the making of her will, Nov. 22, 1757, and its presentation to the Probate Court Jan. 17, 1758. Jeremiah and Abigail, Butler, Wetmore had nine children, two of whom d. in infancy. They were:

Hezekiah.
Jeremiah.
Abigail, b. Sept. 18, 1729, m. 1st Jonas Burt; m. 2nd Samuel Gear (See Gear Family); m. 3rd Abraham Harris.
Ann.
Ichabod.
Elizabeth.
Rachel.
Rachel.
Thankful.

Abigail, third child of Jeremiah and Abigail, Butler, Wetmore, was b. Sept. 18, 1729, d. Sept. 12, 1789. She m. 1st, July 25, 1752, Jonas Burt of Worcester, and they had at least one child, Lucretia. This marriage is all the Middletown records show regardng Jonas Burt. In the distribution of Jeremiah Wetmore's estate, one-half of his homestead was set to "his daughter, Abigail Burt, alias Wetmore," and on Nov. 28, 1758, she sold to her brother, Jeremiah, some of this land. On the same day he conveyed "to my sister, Abigail Burt, 30 rods of land with dwelling house thereon, bounded north by land of John Bacon, east on Highway, south and west on land of John Elton." In 1760 or 1761 she m. 2nd, Samuel Gear. He d. in 1765, and she m. 3rd, Abraham Harris of Wethersfield. The date of their marriage is not known, but it was prior to Oct. 4, 1781, as there is a record on that date of Abraham Harris and his wife Abigail of Middletown selling to Duncan McIntyre a piece of land in the north part of "Town Plot" in Middletown, the description of which is the same as that deeded to Abigail Burt by her brother, Jeremiah Wetmore.

Middletown Town Records.

THE HERRICK FAMILY

Henry Herrick b. in England in 1604, d. 1671, m. Edith, b. 1612, daughter of Hugh Laskin, who d. in 1659. Their son Ephriam, baptized Feb. 11, 1638, d. Sept. 18, 1693, m. July 3, 1661, Mary, b. June 14, 1640, daughter of Robert and Ann, Jordan, Cross. The parents of Ann were Stephen and Susanna, ——, Jordan. Ephriam and Mary, Cross, Herrick, had a son:

Ephriam, b. Aug. 13, 1664.

Ephriam Herrick m., Jan. 2, 1688-89, Judith, b. Nov. 22, 1669, daughter of William and Judith, Glover, Woodbury. William Woodbury, d. 1674. His parents were William Woodbury, b. 1589, d. 1677, and wife, Elizabeth Patch. Ephriam and Judith, Woodbury, Herrick had a daughter:

Elizabeth, b. July 14, 1702, Preston, Conn., m. Jonathan Geer (See Geer Family).

RECORDS

Births

From "Land Records" of Middletown, Conn., Vol. 1:

"William, sone to Danill Haris & Mary his wife was born the 17th July, 1665."—P. 21.

"William son to William Harris and Martha his wife was born ye 20th; May 1697."—P. 4.

"Elizabeth Dafter to the above sayd Joseph & Elizabeth (Johnson) was born December: 12, 1699."—P. 27.

From above, Vol. 2:

"Jonathan son to Ezekiel Gilbert & patiance his wife was born febuary 24, 1715-16."—P. 29.

From above, Vol. 1:

"Prudence Daughter to Wm. Harris & Elizabeth his wife was born Sept. 18, 1721."—P. 2.

"Sarah Daughter to Jonathan Gilbert & Prudence his wife born Nov; 1st 1763."—P. 123.

Baptism

Records of First Congregational Church, Middletown, Conn.:

"Ezekiel Gilbert was baptized May 21, 1693."

Marriages

From "Land Records," Middletown, Conn., Vol. 1:

"William Harris and Martha Collins ware Joyned In Mariage the Eight day of January 1689-90."—P. 4.

"Joseph Johnson & Elizabeth Blake

ware Joyned In Mariage: January: 25th 1698."—P. 27.

"William Harris & Elizabeth Johnson were Joined In Marriage Covenant feb ye 2nd 1720-21."—P. 2.

From the above, Vol. 2:

"Ezekiel Gilbert & patiance Harriss married Decemb r 2nd 1714."—P. 29.

From the above, Vol. 1:

"Jonathan Gilbert jun r and Prudence Harris ware Joyn d in Marage: octob r: 25th 1739."—P. 123. (He was called Jonathan Jr. because he had an uncle Jonathan Gilbert.)

From Middletown Town Records:

"Jonas Burt of Worcester and Abigail Wetmore of Middletown were married by Squire Peck of Horseneck as per information from her July 25th 1752."

Deaths

From "Land Records," Middletown, Conn., Vol. 1:

"Cap n Daniell Harris Departed this life the Last day of novemb r Anno Dom: 1701."—P. 21.

"Mary the Widdow of Cap n Daniel harris departed this life: Sept m 5th: 1711."—P. 21.

"William Harris Departed this Life June 15th 1740."—P. 2.

"Elizabeth Doolittle the Widow of the above Wm Harris Died March 12, 1777."—P. 2.

From the Middlesex Gazette, a Middletown, Conn., weekly, Sept. 12, 1789:

"Died in this town, Mrs. Abigail Harris, aged 60, wife of Abraham Harris."

Tombstones

Tombstones in the several cemeteries in Middletown, Conn., are located and bear inscriptions as follows:

In the Washington Street Cemetery:

"This In Memory Of Mr. Ekek'l Gilbert Who Died Aug'st the 25th A:D 1752 in the 62nd Year of His Age."

"In Memory of Mrs. Patience Wife of Mr. EZEKIEL GILBERT who died Aug'st 15th. A:D, 1777 in the 86th Year of Her Age."

"In Memory of Mr. Jonathan Gilbert Who died Jan. 3rd. 1812 Aged 97."

"In Memory of Mrs. Prudence wife of Mr. Jonathan Gilbert who died August 30th. 1798 Aged 77 years The memory of the Just is blessed."

In the Riverside Cemetery:

"Here lies y body of Jonathan Gilbert who died March 7 1698 oetat suae 50."

"And Allso Dorathy wife of y sd Gilbert who died July 14 1698 aetat suae 32."

"Here Lyeth the body of Isaac Johnson who departed this life Feb. 13, 1719 in the 77 year of his age."

"Here lyeth the body of Elezabeth the wife of Joseph Johnson who deceased March ye 4 1720 aged 41 years"

"Here leys the body of Mr. Sam ll Collins who died the 10 Janvary 1695-6 being in the 60 year of his age"

"Here lies one dead which in her life was my loveing pious wife. Abigail Harris died May the 22 1723"

In the Farm Hill Cemetery:

"In Memory of Mrs. Martha Wife of Captain William Harris died August 14th. 1750 in her 85th year"

"In Memory of Capt. William Harris Who died Febry the 19th 1751 in the 87th Year of his Age."

Wills

Will of Jonathan Gilbert, 1618-1682:

"In the name of God Amen. I Jonathan Gilbert of Hartford in the County of Hartford and Colony of Conn being in perfect health and good memory at this time and not knowing the time of my dissolucion and sencible of Mortality and very desirous to leave a settled peace in my family in respect to those transitory things, I do constitute this my last Will and Testament. Imprimis, I give and bequeath my immortal soul into the everlasting Arms of my Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who hath redeemed me with his precious blood. Also I bequeath my body to the earth by comely bureal, and also my wish is that all my lawful debts be paid and discharged out of my moveable estate, which being done, I do dispose of that little estate which God out of his bounty has betrusted me with as followith. Item. To my dear and loving wife Mary Gilbert, as followith the use of my dwelling house (at Cold Spring) house lott Orchard, Gardens, Barns, Barn-yard Out-house, Ware-house, that part of my Island above that which is commonly known by the name of Dutch Island all northward as also that little land I bought of Mr. Callsey as also that land I did exchange with Mr. James Richards, as also

that pasture I bought of Andrew Warner, also my wood lotts on the West side of Rocky Hill. All and every part of the forementioned particulars, during here widowhood and till my son Samuel Gilbert shall attain to the age of Twenty-One years and then my wish is that she shall peaceably surrender unto Samuel his quiet possession at the foresaid house & land save only what is hers excipten viz the Celler, great Kitchen and all the chambers over it and garret over the said Kitchen, and half my ware house that is to say the south end, celler and rooms over the celler and half my home-lot (the east end of it) and half my Barn half my Barn yard for her use with also full use of water in the well and found on the lot, without any interruption during her natural life and that immediately after her death all the fore said houseing and land I give to my son Samuel Gilbert and his heirs forever, he paying his brother Ebenezer Gilbert thirty pounds in Country pay. Item I give to my son Jonathan Gilbert one half of the land on the bounds of Haddam, that I bought of Mr. James Bates and Thomas Shaylor or Twenty pounds in other estates which he the said Jonathan shall choose which is the completing of his portion to what I have done for him already. Item. I give to my son Thomas Gilbert my house and home-lot on the south side of the riverlet in Hartford and my meadow land that I did exchange and had of Mr. James Richards to possess immediately after his Mother's death, but the house and lot to possess at the age of one and twenty, also I give to my son Thomas that ten acres of land I bought of Lieut Robert Webster, also I give to my son Thomas the lower end of my Island that is to say, from the upper end of that which is called Dutch Island which I bought of Capt. Thomas Lord with a straight line to the great river west and to End on the meadow lots. I lay all my land downward to him and his heirs forever he paying his Mother Twenty shillings per year and Twenty pounds of good hops per year during her natural life. Item. I give to my son Nathaniel Gilbert my farm at Meriden with all the house and land thereunto belonging and all privileges hereunto to him and his heirs forever and I also give him thirty pounds more out of my estate or in cattle to stock the said farm. Item. I give to my Daughters Lidia Richedson twenty shillings Sarah Belcher twenty shillings Mary Holton twenty shillings. Item I give to my daughter Hester Gilbert One hundred pounds to be payed to her within six months after her marriage or eighteen years of age, which shall first happen in currint county pay or part in household goods, to be prized by indifferent men. Item. I give to my daughter Rachel Gilbert One hundred pounds to be paid her within six months after her marriage or Eighteen years of age, which shall first happen in current county pay or part in household goods, to be prized by indifferent men. I give to my son Ebenezer Gilbert his heirs forever all that three hundred acres of land belonging and also that purchase of land I bought of Capt. Daniel Clark lyeing Farmington bounds, with all the privelidges thereunto belonging and also that purchase of land I bought of "Massecap" commonly called and known by the name of "Pagan Chaumeschang" also I give to Ebenezer Gilbert thirty pounds to be paid him by his brother Samuel Gilbert and twenty pounds more to be paid him out of my estate to stock his farm with: which Fifty pounds shall be paid him at the age of one and twenty years, and my desire is that my wife do remember Hannah Kelly and give her twenty shillings, and more as her direction shall guide her, if she proves obedient. Item I give to my grand child John Rosseter Ten pounds to be paid him at the age of twenty-five in county pay. Also I give my grand child Andrew Belcher Five pounds in county pay. I give my grand child Jonathan Richedson five pounds in county pay. Also my will is if any of my children prove disobedient and legally convicted so to be that my wife hath the power to take from such child forty pounds of his or her respective portion and distribute among the surviving. Also my will is if any of my children are taken away by death before they come to receive their respective portions then that child's portion to be divided equally amongst the surviving. I also make and constitute Capt. John Allyn and my brother John Gilbert and Sarjiant Caleb Standly to be helpful to my dear and loving wife whom I make and constitute and appoint sole Executrix and administrater to this my last will and Testament and desire that she satisfy them for their paynes. Whom I intreat to see this my last will attended and performed, revoking all former wills. As witness my hand this 10th day of September 1674. Jonathan Gilbert. Signed sealed in the presence of us John Tallcott. John Gilbert."

Extract from Will of Rev. Samuel Stow 1624-1704:

"I have given to my six children each, one sixth part. My son Izrahiah Wetmore as trustee for the orphans of my daughter Dorothy Gilbert. Item. As to my interest in the division of the half mile, and as to the additional three miles belonging to it, in case of a new plantation I give to Eben-

ezer Gilbert the (posthumous) son of my dau Dorothy (deceased) to Samuel Barnes, son of my dau Elizabeth, to Ichabod Wetmore son of my dau Rachel, and to Beriah Wetmore husband of my dau Margaret, and that my dau Margaret shall have the high bed with the curtains and vallence broidered, with what necessary bedding and bolsters, besides the bed and bedstead, that hath been improved about me. Besides I will Margaret the value of half the long table and carpet and dau Rachel the whole, paying the value of half of the whole to Margaret Mr. Pierpont being judge of it. The great carved chest I will to Margaret as also the silver spoons which she possetheth marked S. S. M. and marked S. S. E. to my dau Elizabeth, the spoon marked S. S. D. let be reserved for little Sarah Gilbert when of Age. As what more of silver, brass, and iron in the house that was mine I will to my dau Rachel because tender and careful of me in my old age. Samuel Stow L. S."

Distribution of Estate Jonathan Gilbert, 1648-1698. (No will was found. His wife survived him but four months).

"Sept. 3, 1698. Izrahiah Wetmore and the dau made oath to the invt. Administrator, Izrahiah Wetmore." "Sept. 5, 1700: Izrahiah Wetmore, adms. reports that the personal estate is not sufficient to pay the debts." "Nov. 11, 1792. Order to distribute the estate to John Gilbert, to Jonathan Gilbert, to Nathaniel Gilbert, to Ezekiel Gilbert, to Ebenezer, to Mary, to Sarah, by Nathaniel White, Alexander Rollo, and Thomas Stow." "March 6, 1704. Nathanial Gilbert, a minor son of Jonathan Gilbert, chose John Bacon to be his guardian, and this Court appoint Thomas Stow to be Guardian unto Ebenezer Gilbert, another son of Jonathan Gilbert." "Sept 6, 1705. This Court now discharges Thomas Stow, Guardian to Ebenezer Gilbert, and appoint Izrahiah Wetmore of Middletown to be his Guardian."—Court Records of Middletown, Conn.

Will of Ezekiel Gilbert 1693-1752. (Copied from Middletown Probate Records, Vol. 1, p. 45. The record is worn in places and the words in parenthesis have been substituted for those undecipherable):

"I, Ezekiel Gilbert of Middletown In the County of Hartford, being under Indisposition of Body, but of sound Disposing Mind and Memory and Considering the Uncertainty of my temporal Life Do make and Ordain this my Last Will and Testament and do hereby Dispose of such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this Life (arfter my just Debts and Funeral Charges are paid) I give, Demise and Dispose in the following Manner and Form——Imprimis I give and bequeath unto Patience my well beloved Wife the Use and Improvement of such part of my Real Estate as she shall see cause to improve for and During the time that she shall Remain my Widow, and the whole of my personal Estate I give to her to be at her Dispose. Item, I give to my Eldest Son, Jonathan Gilbert, the sum of twenty shillings old Tenor. Item, I give to the Children of my Son Ezekiel Gilbert, Junr, Decd, Namely Elihu, Abigail, Seth, Rhoda & Elizabeth, to each of them the sum of Ten pounds, old Tenr to be paid to them as they shall severally arrive to Lawfull Age and if anyone or more of them shall Decease before, my will is that the same viz., the Sum of fifty pounds shall be shared among the Survivors. Item, I give to my Daughter Elizabeth the Wife of Ebenr Johnson, One common Bible or the Value thereof. Item, I give to my Daughter Lament the wife of Phenias (?) Rice (?) the Sum of Ten Shillings old Tenor. Item, I give to my Daughter Abigail Gilbert one Common Bible or the Value thereof, besides what is already provided for her—— Item, I give to my two youngest Sons Joseph Gilbert and David all my Real Estate and Credits, (in equail parts) except the sum of twelve pounds, Old Tenr of my Credits which I do hereby give to my Wife. Hereby obliging them, my said Sons Joseph & David to pay all my just Debts and the Legacies above mentioned within One Year after my Decease (Except the Legacies to the children of my Son Ezekiel which ((Legacies)) or ((I desire)) shall be paid Equail to a Dollar at Sixty four Shillings pr (?) Dollar, and the (reason) why I have given no more to my children that are married is because they (have had) their full portion of my Estate, and I do hereby Constitute, Nominate (and Appoint) my Son Joseph Gilbert to be Executor to this my Will and Testament. In Witness Whereof I have hereunto Set my Hand and Seal the 17th Day of August, A. D. 175—. N. B. Jonathan had Recd his portion by the Gift of his Grandfather (—) Daniel Harris. Ezekiel Gilbert. Signed, Sealed, Published and Declared by the sd Ezekiel Gilbert to be his Last Will and Testament in presence of James Mattock, John Young, Willm Rockwell."

Will of Jonathan Gilbert, 1715-16—1812:

"In the Name of God, Amen, I Jonathan

Gilbert of Middletown in the Stare of Connecticut, calling to mind the uncertainty of my Temporal life & being at present in a Good State of Health, & of a Sound and disposing mind & memory do make & ordain this my last Will & Testament. First, I recommend my Sould to God who gave it, & my Body to the Earth in Christian Burial & as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with after my just debts & funeral Charges are paid —— I give & dispose of the remainder as follows, Vis t to my son Jon n Gilbert, Jun r & to his Heirs & Assigns forever I give devise & bequeath all my farming utensils & all my lands & Buildings Item. To my Sons, Ezekiel & William & to my Daughters Prudence Eliz h Patience & Sarah what I have heretofore given them I hereby declare to be in full of their several Portions of my Estate —And I do hereby appoint my son Jon n Gilbert, Jun r Ex r of this my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereto Set my hand & Seal this eighth day of May, A. D. 1802. Jon n Gilbert (Seal). Sign d Seal d Publish d & pronounced by the s d Jon n Gilbert as his last Will & Testament. In Presence of Josiah Starr Elizur Barns Jno Fisk."

REV. EZEKIEL GILBERT GEAR, D. D.

CHAPLAIN AT FORT SNELLING, 1838-1858.

An Address on the occasion of the Presentation of his Portrait to the Minnesota Historical Scciety, at the monthly meeting of its Executive Council, February 12th, 1906, by the Rt. Rev. Samuel Cook Edsall, D. D., Bishop of Minnesota.

The pleasant duty of rendering honor tonight to Father Gear, of blessed memory, and of formally presenting to the Historical Society the excellent portrait in oil painted by Miss Grace E. McKinstry, of Fairbault, comes to me simply because in the Providence of God I am now Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Minnesota, and can therefore represent more fully than anyone else the religious body of which Father Gear was the pioneer minister, and which now rejoices in the opportunity of placing his likeness in your custody, where it may be preserved among the portraits of the other great men who bore their part in laying the foundations of this commonwealth.

This duty could have been more adequately performed either by Rev. William C. Pope, of St. Paul, or Rev. George C. Tanner, D. D., of Fairbault, the residence and ministry of both of whom go back to a point in Minnesota's history which would enable them to speak from personal knowledge, not only of the later years of Father Gear's own life, but of the other men with whom he labored, and of events in which they themselves have borne an honorable part.

To Mr. Pope we owe the inception of the project for procuring this portrait, and most of the credit for carrying it through to completion; while to Dr. Tanner, as the historian of the Episcopal Church in this Diocese, we are indebted for the gathering of the facts which have made Father Gear's life and labors familiar to those of us who belong to a later generation.

But enlightened by what Mr. Pope and Dr. Tanner have contributed to the early history of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, I have been permitted to realize how remarkable was the man in whose honor we have met tonight, and how prominent was his share in doing the very first work, not only of the Episcopal Church, but of any English-speaking religious body, among the white settlers of Minnesota, and particularly in that portion of Minnesota centering about Fort Snelling and the junction of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, embracing the present great cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The salient fact for us to fasten in our minds, in estimating the place of this man among Minnesota's pioneers, is that he began his labors as chaplain at Fort Snelling, and as a Christian missionary in the vicinity, in April, 1839, and that thus he became (aside from the Rev. Clement F. Jones, post chaplain in 1828, and aside from certain faithful missionaries among the Indians and half-breeds) the first resident Christian minister of Minnesota. In the days of Mr. Jones' chaplaincy, and, in fact, up to the time of Father Gear's coming, there was practically no white settlement in which a resident minister could labor. We would not detract from the heroism of any missionary who gave his life to ministering among the Indians, nor from the fidelity of any chaplain who may have held service for the garrison in the fort; nor do we deny that it is possible that some occasional service may have been held somewhere in the present boundaries

of Minnesota for some passing party of traders or explorers; but the fact remains that Ezekiel G. Gear was the first Christian minister, permanently residing in Minnesota, to conduct services regularly in the English language among the white settlers of the future state. That this fact should be stated and known is but due to a man whose missionary zeal was such that he did not content himself with his Sunday morning and evening services in the fort, but was keen to avail himself of the earliest opportunity of gathering the settlers at points like the future Mendota and St. Paul for public worship, and of entering into relations with them as a Christian pastor.

To be the first Christian minister to officiate regularly in the English language among the white settlers of Minnesota is proud enough title for any man. But when we add to this that in personal character, in missionary zeal, in intellectual ability, in far-seeing plans, as well as in commanding physical presence, he was a man of altogether exceptional force and power, and one whose influence as a force for righteousness counted more than that of any other one man in those earliest days of Minnesota's history, we can see that it would have constituted a neglect almost criminal if we had failed to preserve his features, with some record of his life, here in this hall of Minnesota's fame, and in this shrine where her early records are cherished.

Ezekiel Gilbert Gear was born in Middletown, Connecticut, September 13th, 1793. He was ordained deacon by Bishop Griswold in the same church in which he was baptized, and his diaconate was passed in that diocese. He was ordained priest by Bishop Hobart, and was appointed missionary in the western part of New York state. There he labored at Onondaga Hill, Avon, Manlius, Ithica, Syracuse, Binghamton and Brownsville. He also worked among the Oneida and Onondaga Indians, baptizing, marrying, and admitting many to the communion of the Church. He was present at the confirmation by Bishop Hobart of ninety-seven Indians, presented by Eleazar Williams. We can well imagine that this previous connection with Indian work led him to take an especial interest in advocating, as he did, the beginning of work among the Sioux and Ojibways of Minnesota.

In 1836 Mr. Gear was appointed by the Board of Missions as missionary at Galena, Illinois, where he built a church. He also did missionary duty in southern and western Wisconsin, and in northwestern Illinois, visiting Dubuque, Mineral Point and Prairie du Chien. He accompanied Bishop Kemper on one of his visitations to Green Bay, probably in 1838, when the cornerstone of Hobart Church on the Oneida Reservation was laid.

On Oct. 2d, 1838, he was appointed post chaplain at Fort Snelling. In writing to the Board of Missions with regard to the chaplaincy, he said: "A considerable settlement has already commenced in the vicinity of the fort, and it is the understanding that I am to be at liberty to extend my labors among them. Without drawing any support from the Committee, I beg that they will consider me as under their direction, and allow me to still make reports to them as heretofore." The considerable settlement to which he refers was Mendota, or, as it was then called, St. Peter, which was also the name of the river. A few months earlier, on June 12th, 1838, the northern part of the Louisiana Purchase, including what later became southern and western Minnesota, had been nominally organized as Iowa Territory. Accordingly we find that the Board of Missions passed a resolution, "That the Rev. E. G. Gear be appointed missionary in the Precinct of St. Peter, Iowa, and that the Committee accede to his kind proposal to act without salary."

It was already late in the season when Mr. Gear set out from Galena for his remote home, traveling first to Fort Crawford at Prairie du Chien. From this point the journey was to be made by sledges on the ice of the Mississippi river. He had engaged a Canadian to transport him and his goods on a one-horse sledge, of the kind then in use, but when seated on the top of his baggage the sledge gave a lurch which threw him on the ice. When Mr. Sibley and Mr. Dousman picked him up, it was found that his hip bone was broken. He was obliged to remain in the hospital at Fort Crawford all winter, and was lamed for life. Thereafter he was compelled to preach in a sitting posture. But we are told that such was his presence and voice that this did not detract from the force of his sermons.

Not only were Mr. Gear's ministrations at Fort Snelling faithful and efficient, but we find him conducting a school at the fort, and winning by his ministration the interest of such men as General Sibley. Moreover, we find him pleading the necessity of work among the Indians and bringing the attention of the Board to Enmegahbowh. In 1843 Bishop Kemper paid his first visit to Minnesota as the guest of Father Gear at Fort Snelling.

The daughters of Father Gear state that he told them that he held his first service in the settlement at St. Paul in 1840. Mr. A. L. Larpenteur states that he well remembers when Mr. Gear and Father Ravoux, the revered Roman Catholic pastor

who labored here more than half a century, were accustomed to alternate in holding Sunday services in St. Paul. There would seem to be no question but that Father Gear held the first service in the English language within the present limits of St. Paul, and it is probable that he held the first Christian service of any kind here. On December 24th, 1845, he held a Christmas service in St. Paul.

It is also probable that the service which he held at the Falls of St. Anthony on February 5th, 1848, was the first religious service in that place, or in the present city of Minneapolis, excepting the mission work of the brothers Samuel W. and Gideon H. Pond for the Sioux at their cabin built in 1834 near the east shore of Lake Calhoun.

Father Gear was still pleading in communications to the Board of Missions, and in articles to the Church newspapers, for the great need of missionary work to be done in Minnesota. We can imagine that his lameness made him anxious for reinforcements. At last, in 1850, Breck and his associates came. Father Gear's character is shown in the cordiality with which he met them, and in his eager co-operation, transferring his work in St. Paul, and giving an acre of ground to be added to their tract for the mission here. He was a frequent visitor at the Mission House, and he laid the corner stone of the original Christ Church. He was president of the first Standing Committee appointed by Bishop Kemper at the first Convocation, held November 4th, 1854, and was chairman of the committee appointed to draft a constitution and canons in 1856. He was a delegate to the General Convention in 1859, and was an active member of the Council which elected Bishop Whipple.

After the abandonment of Fort Snelling, in 1858, he continued to officiate for the families remaining there and at Mendota, until his appointment as chaplain at Fort Ripley, in the spring of 1860. In 1867 he was retired from the service, and soon afterward removed to Minneapolis, where he continued to reside until his death, which took place October 13th, 1873. At the time of his death he had passed the age of fourscore, was the senior presbyter of the Church in the United States, and had resided in Minnesota thirty-four years.

Bishop Whipple said at his funeral: "This is no common grave. A great man in our Israel is fallen; a brave-hearted soldier, after the battle of fourscore years, has entered into his rest."

In loving memory of such a man, of one who had so much to do with the early religious history of Minnesota, I take pleasure, in behalf of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, in presenting to the Historical Society this portrait of the Rev. Dr. Ezekiel Gilbert Gear.